



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

October 12, 1992

Sadie Hoskie, Director
Navajo Environmental Protection Administration
P.O. Drawer 308
Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: Bluewater Uranium Mine Site, DOE Lease, Prewitt, New Mexico

Dear Sadie:

As you are aware, Dan McGovern, during his last visit to the Navajo Nation, had the opportunity to meet with his Department of Energy (DOE) counterpart at the Bluewater site. During their meeting it was decided that the DOE would enter into an Interagency Agreement in order for EPA to assist and conduct the necessary actions at the site before winter.

At this time, the DOE is preparing the Interagency Agreement. However, EPA has yet to receive this vital paper and we can not proceed in contracting or designing the reclamation without this agreement and commitment of funds. In order to avoid any additional delays, EPA is preparing to quickly contract Laguna Construction to perform the reclamation action.

Since we all want to achieve this reclamation before the set of winter (or be forced to wait another 5 months), I am requesting your support in informing DOE on the urgency to accelerate their pace in developing the Interagency Agreement and committing funds to the project. In addition, we request your support for EPA to once again utilize Laguna Construction, on a sole source contract, to perform this task. To express the Navajo Nation's concerns at the site, please contact Cheryl Thompson of the DOE at 505-845-6145. By personally calling Cheryl and explaining to her the Navajo Nation's environmental concerns, she may be more responsive in accelerating the pace of completing the necessary paperwork rather than considering this project just one of many on her desk.

If all goes well, I hope to initiate the final phase of the Bluewater Uranium Mine cleanup by the end of this month once the project is approved by Jeff Zelikson. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 415-744-2298.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Bornstein", is written over the typed name.

Robert Bornstein
Federal OSC